



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

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PRESS RELEASE

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SAGINAW DOCTOR INDICTED FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISTRIBUTION

Ruth Ann Buck, M.D., of Saginaw, Michigan, was indicted on charges of unlawfully distributing controlled substances, announced United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade. McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert L. Corso, Drug Enforcement Administration.

The indictment charges that from January 2006 through July 2009, Dr. Buck unlawfully prescribed and distributed prescription drugs outside the course of professional practice and for no legitimate medical purpose. The indictment alleges that during this time frame, Dr. Buck prescribed over 1.5 million dosage units of narcotic pain killers, including Vicodin, OxyContin, Xanax, morphine, methadone, and Dilaudid. The indictment also alleges that Dr. Buck prescribed these prescription drugs without any significant medical examination, despite being informed that patients were misusing the drugs, and far in excess of the legitimate medical needs of many of the patients.

Special Agent in Charge Corso stated: "Today's indictment is just one example of DEA's determination to combat the troubling prescription drug abuse problem in this

country. The diversion of medicine into the illegal market is every bit as dangerous, if not more so, than cocaine and heroin dealers on our streets. The indictment of Dr. Buck has put a large dent into the illegal diversion of prescription drugs and should serve as a warning that the DEA and our law enforcement partners will continue to pursue those that are illegally diverting prescription drugs into our communities.”

Dr. Buck is charged with thirty-three counts of unlawfully distributing controlled substances, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1). The maximum penalty for these offenses is 20 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and lifetime supervised release.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Detroit Tactical Diversion Squad.